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High-Voltage High-Energy Stretched Lens Array Square-Rigger (SLASR) for Direct-Drive Solar Electric Propulsion

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Direct-Drive Solar Electric Propulsion (SEP)

- When the output of a high-performance, high-voltage solar photovoltaic array (e.g., Stretched Lens Array) is directly connected to an electric thruster (e.g., Hall-effect thruster) with minimal power distribution system in between, a very fuel-efficient and costeffective reusable SEP space tug becomes possible.
- As shown in the following two slides, such an SEP space tug could deliver 110 metric tons of cargo to the lunar surface at savings of more than \$3 billion compared to conventional chemical propulsion transport.
- The critical enabling technology for such SEP space tugs is the high-performance, high-voltage solar array, which must provide unprecedented performance metrics compared to today's state of the art arrays.
- The Stretched Lens Array (SLA) offers these required performance metrics, and ground tests and flight tests to validate SLA for SEP are critical to near-term availability of this important technology for space exploration.

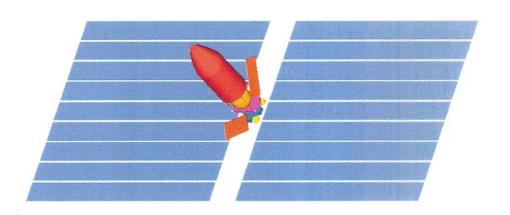
600 kW SLASR-Powered SEP Tug Mission

♦ SLASR-Powered SEP Tug

- Nominal 600 kW SLASR Array (Approx. 2,000 sq.m. Total)
- Hall-Effect Thrusters
- 600 Volt Direct Drive System
- 22 MT to Lunar Surface Each Trip
- 1 Year Max Round-Trip Time
- Reusable Tug (5 Round Trips)



- Five Round-Trips (One per Year) from LEO (400 km) to LLO, with On-Board Chemically Fueled Lander Delivering Cargo to Lunar Surface
- First LEO Launch Contains Tug, Xenon, Lander with Chemical Fuel, and Cargo
- Subsequent LEO Launches Provide New Xenon, Lander with Fuel, and Cargo, Which Dock with Tug in LEO for Next Trip
- 28 Degree Inclination Near Earth with Plane Changes Near Moon





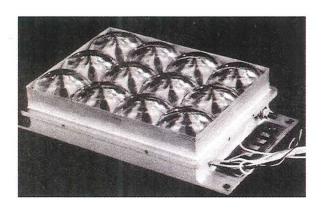
600 kW SLASR-Powered Lunar SEP Tug Offers Huge Savings

Conventional Chemical Cargo Transport		
Item	Mass	
LEO-to-LLO Vehicle (Expendable)	10 MT	
Cargo	22 MT	
LLO-to-Lunar Surface Fuel	15 MT	
LEO-to-LLO Fuel	80 MT	
Total Launch Mass	127 MT	
Total LEO Launch Mass for Five Deliveries Over Five Years (110 MT Total Cargo)	635 MT	
Launch Costs Using Shuttle-Derived Heavy	\$ 6,350 Million	
(\$10 M/MT from ATK: safesimplesoon.com)		

Reusable SLA-Powered SEP Cargo Transport		
Item	Mass	
LEO-to-LLO Vehicle (Reusable)	10 MT	
Cargo	22 MT	
LLO-to-Lunar Surface Fuel	15 MT	
LEO-to-LLO Propellant (Xenon)	23 MT	
Total Launch Mass (First Launch w/Vehicle)	70 MT	
Total Launch Mass (Subsequent Launches)	60 MT	
Total LEO Launch Mass for Five Deliveries	310 MT	
Over Five Years (110 MT Total Cargo)		
Launch Costs Using Shuttle-Derived Heavy	\$ 3,100 Million	
(\$10 M/MT from ATK: safesimplesoon.com)		

- SEP Offers Over \$3 Billion in Savings Just in Launch Costs per Tug
- ♦ SEP Offers Additional Savings of 4 Fewer LEO-to-LLO Transfer Vehicles
- More than 5 Round -Trips May Be Practical for SEP Tug (More Savings)
- ◆ For 70-MT-Class Shuttle-Derived Launch Vehicles, SEP Approach Will Require Half as Many Launches as Chemical Approach, and, as ATK Accurately States, "Fewer Launches + Fewer Payloads + Fewer In Space Assemblies = Higher Mission Reliability"

Background: Mini-Dome Lens Array on PASP-Plus and SCARLET Array on Deep Space 1



Mini-Dome Lens Array Flew on PASP-Plus Flight Experiment in 1994-95 and Performed Very Well in High-Radiation Elliptical Orbit



SCARLET Array Flew on Deep Space 1 in 1998-2001 and Performed Flawlessly for 38 Month Extended Mission

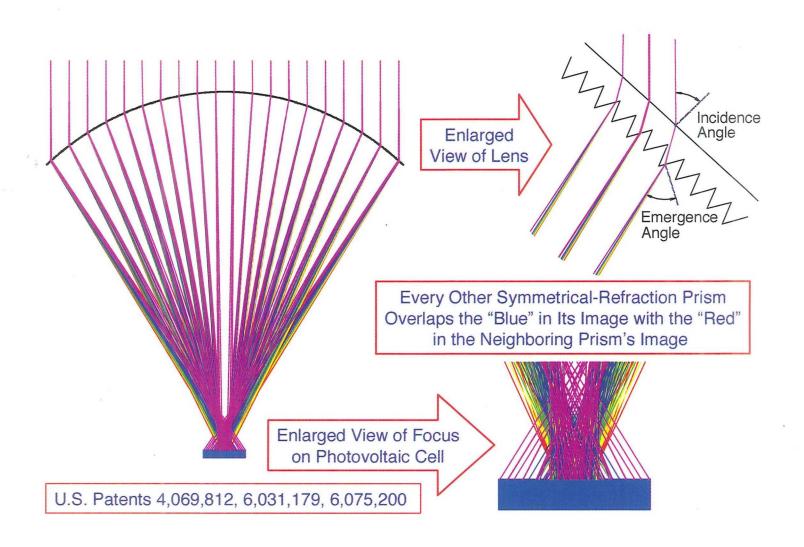
Stretched Lens Array (SLA) Approach



Flexible Silicone Lens Folds Flat Against Radiator Sheet (Containing Solar Cells) for Compact Launch, and Deploys on Orbit Using Lengthwise Tensioning to Support Arched Lens in Proper Position



Unique Lens Provides High Optical Performance, Color-Mixing, and Unparalleled Error Tolerance



Two Versions of Stretched Lens Array (SLA)

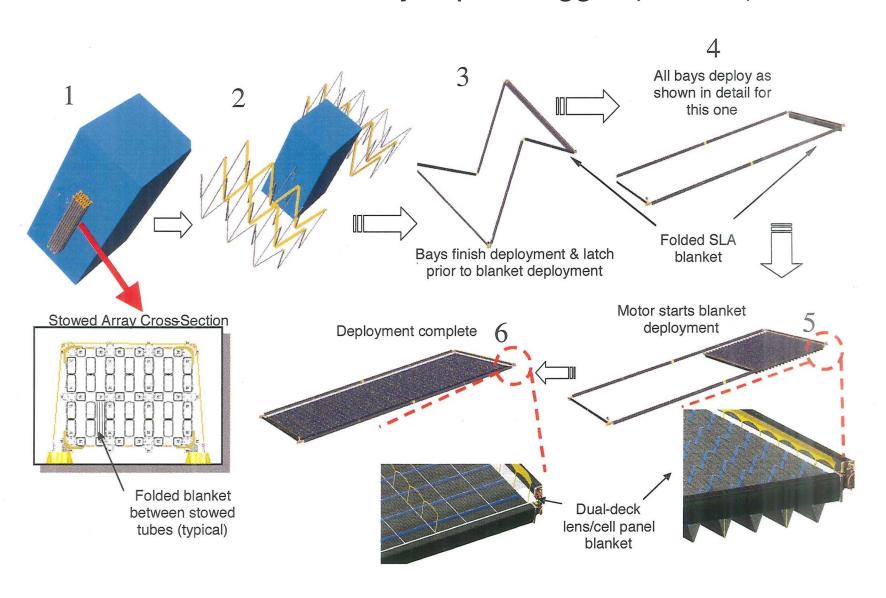


Flexible-Blanket Version (Above) of SLA Uses End Tensioning to Deploy and Support Lenses and Radiator Blankets



Rigid-Panel Version (Above) of SLA Uses Pop-Up Lenses on Lightweight Honeycomb Panels

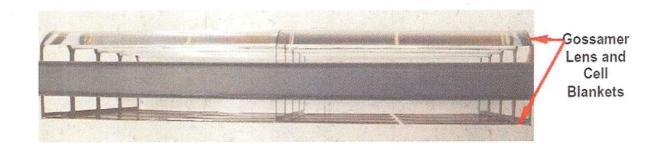
Stretched Lens Array SquareRigger (SLASR)



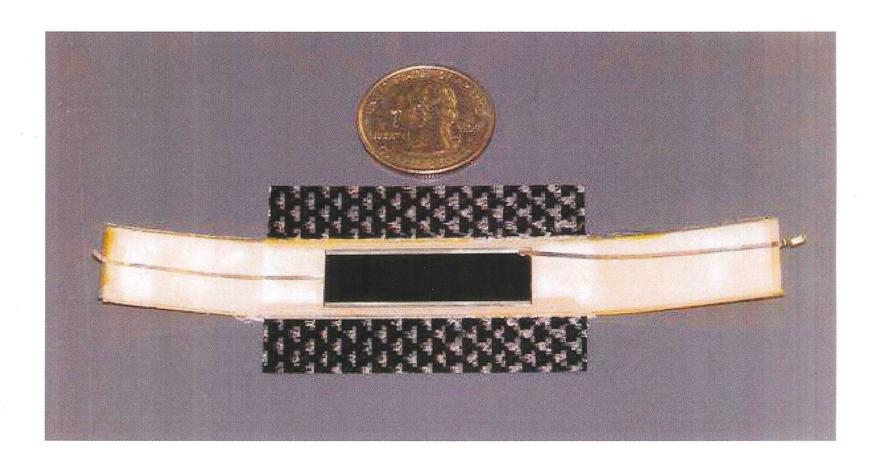
Prototype Stretched Lens Array SquareRigger (SLASR) Hardware

Prototype Hardware Shows
That the SLASR Approach
Provides Excellent Deployment,
Support, and Alignment of
Lenses and Radiators
Containing Solar Cell Receivers

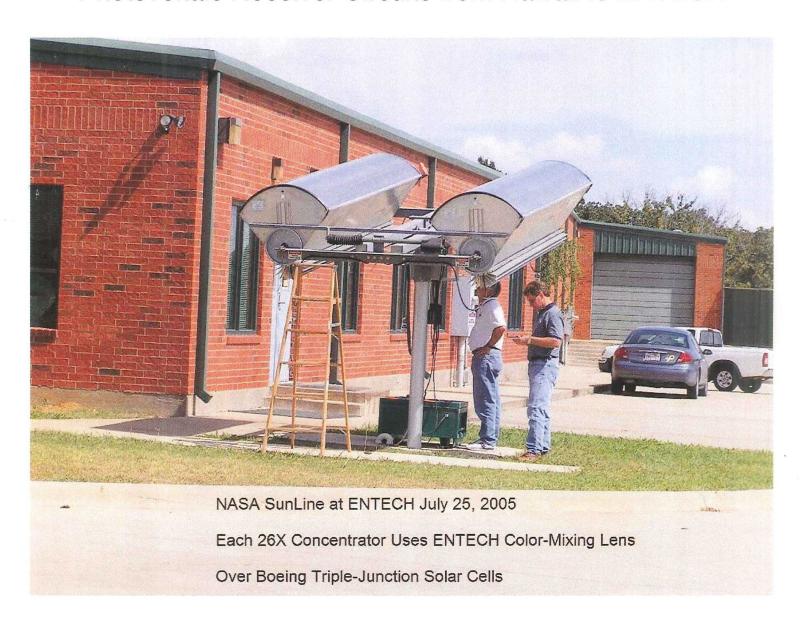




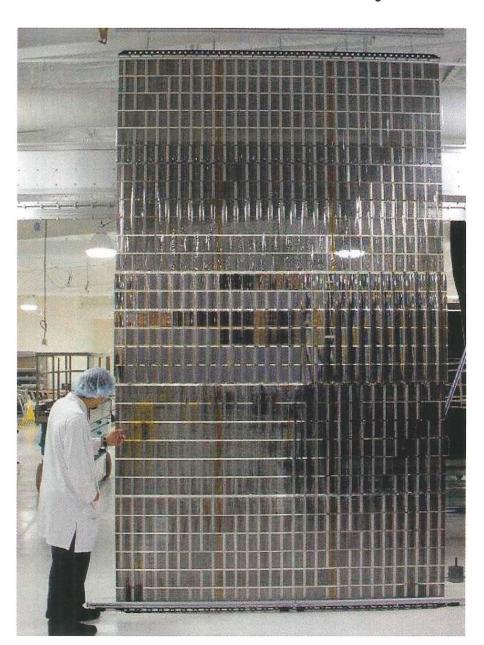
Fully Encapsulated SLASR Receiver Sample



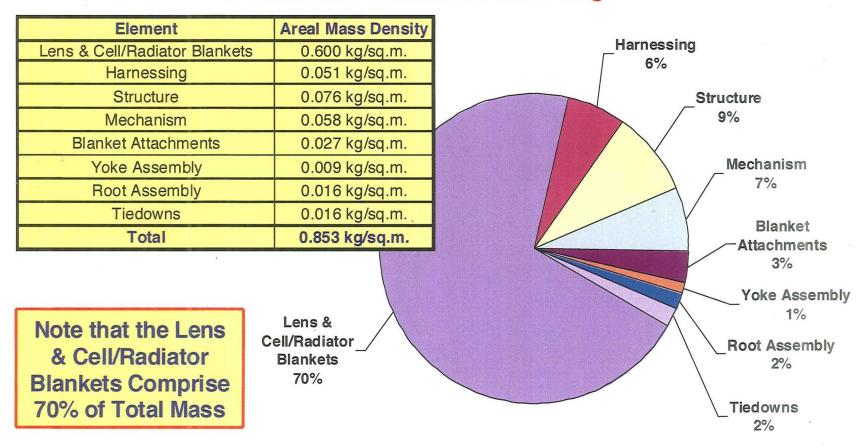
Relocation of 1 kW *SunLine* Array with 600-Volt Photovoltaic Receiver Circuits from Hawaii to ENTECH



Full-Scale SLASR Bay.



Mass Breakdown for 100 kW Stretched Lens Array SquareRigger (SLASR) for Current Technology and Normal GEO Radiation Shielding



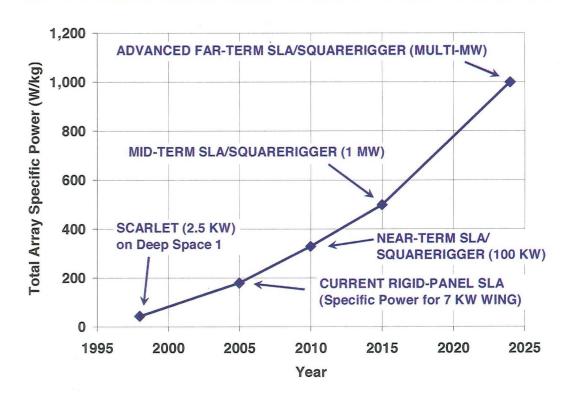
This mass breakdown is for a near-term 100 kW SLASR with today's 30% efficient cells and today's lens and radiator thicknesses

Key SLASR Performance Parameters.

Parameter	Value for SLASR	Measurement or Model
Lens Transmittance	92%	Measurement
Cell Efficiency @25C	30%	Measurement
Net Lens/Cell Efficiency @25C	27.6%	Measurement (NASA Lear Jet Confirmed)
Cell Temperature on GEO	71C	Model (Validated on SCARLET)
Cell Temperature Knockdown Factor	- 91%	Measurement (Cell Temperature Coefficients)
Input Irradiance to SLA Lens	1,366 W/sq.m.	Measurement (International Standard)
SLA SquareRigger Gross Areal Power Density	343 W/sq.m.	Model
Wiring/Mismatch/Packing Knockdown Factor	90%	Model
SLA SquareRigger Net Areal Power Density	309 W/sq.m.	Model
SLA SquareRigger Wing Mass Density	0.853 kg/sq.m.	Model (Based on Prototype)
SLA SquareRigger Net Specific Power	362 W/kg	Model
SLA SquareRigger Stowed Power Density	80 kW/cu.m.	Model (Based on Prototype)

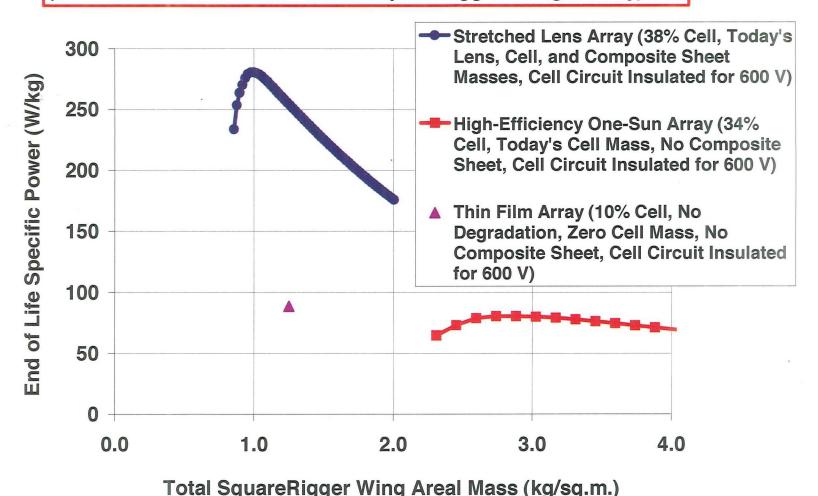
Stretched Lens Array SquareRigger (SLASR) Offers Spectacular Performance Metrics

Time Frame	< 5 Years	5-10 Years
Power Capability (kW)	100	1,000
BOL Specific Power (W/kg)	330	500
Stowed Power (kW/m³)	80	120
Voltage	1,000	TBD



SLASR Optimization for a Solar Electric Propulsion (SEP) Space Tug Mission with 7 Annual Trips from Low Earth Orbit to Low Lunar Orbit

Assumption: Total SquareRigger Array Mass = Blanket Mass/0.70 (Reference: ABLE's 100 kW SLA SquareRigger Design Study)

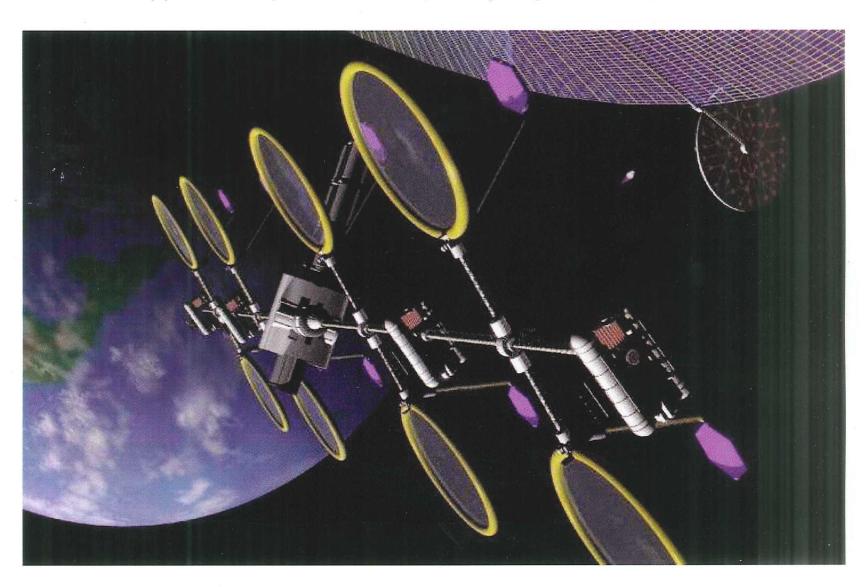


SLASR Advantages for Solar Electric Propulsion Missions

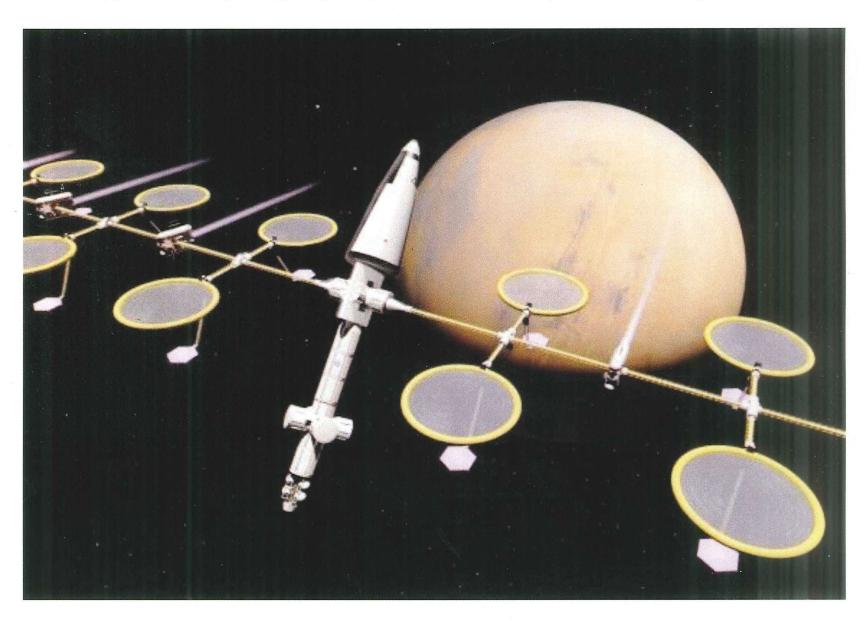
SLASR's Advantages for SEP Missions Include a Set of Unprecedented Performance Metrics and Features:

- Areal Power Density = 300-400 W/m²
- Specific Power = 300-500 W/kg for Full 100 kW Solar Array
- Stowed Power = 80-120 kW/m³ for 100 kW Solar Array
- Scalable Array Capacity = 100's of W's to 100's of kW's
- Super-Insulated Small Cell Circuit = High-Voltage Operation
- Super-Shielded Small Cell Circuit = Radiation Hardness
- 85% Cell Area Savings = 75% Lower Array Cost per Watt
- Modular, Scalable, & Mass-Producible at MW's per Year Using Existing Processes and Capabilities

A notional Solar Electric Propulsion (SEP) System – an Earth-Moon System "Solar Clipper" – in operation, transporting large space systems to GEO



Another notional Solar Electric Propulsion (SEP) System – an Earth-Mars "Solar Clipper" – transporting large exploration mission systems and cargo to Mars orbit.



Conclusions

- Solar electric propulsion using direct-drive, high-voltage, highperformance solar arrays offers substantial benefits for delivering cargo in support of exploration missions to the Moon, and later to Mars.
- A single 600 kW reusable space tug could save over <u>\$3 billion</u> in launch costs alone in delivering 110 metric tons of cargo to the Moon.
- The critical enabling technology for such SEP space tug missions is the high-performance, ultra-light, radiation-durable, scalable, cost-effective, high-voltage solar array.
- The Stretched Lens Array (SLA) offers the portfolio of attributes and performance metrics needed for SEP space tug missions.
- Ground tests and later flight tests are critical to validate the SLASR technology for direct-drive SEP missions.
- Initial ground tests are underway and additional ground tests are planned for the next 2-3 years to support the development of SLA for direct-drive SEP missions.